TECHNICAL + DIRECTOR Speech 31 7:15-7:30 (1)

Theme fade ——→ Speech 31 ——→ Theme + cut 4:42.

ANNC. _____ o'clock and time for "CANDID CAMPUS", the program that brings direct to you the inside information on campus personalities. This evening we have in our studio a tall, dark-haired senior, Jean Wood, who is a member of Gold Key, the organization familiar to most of us in name only. Jean, I've heard the term "Gold Key", but am completely blank as to what it is. (I hope it's not subversive!) How about telling me and our radio audience exactly what it does mean?

4:18

JEAN Well, Nancy, I appreciate this opportunity to try to clear the mysteries concerning Gold Key. It's simply a group of students who form what you might call a "welcoming committee" for Smith visitors. We show them around the campus and try to answer questions about Smith and college life in general.

Gold Key was established in 1947 by Miss Mensel, Mrs. Crawford and Miss Rich who applied the idea of the Dartmouth "Green Key" here in Northampton. You see, there was a definite lack here at Smith, as efficient as the administration may be. When girls came to visit to decide on what college they wanted to enter, there was never anyone here who could ~~show them around the campus and~~ give them the student's point of view of Smith College life.

ANNC. Oh I see, they need a personal kind of guide to show them around the campus and tell them about rules, traditions and thelike.

JEAN Yes, that's it--we try to "sell" the idea of Smith. Of course not all of our visitors are prospective students.

ANNC. What do you mean by that?

JEAN Some are Smith alumnae who haven't been in Hamp for many years, some are foreign officials who want to get an idea of American college education, some are people who just happen to be driving through Northampton and have no idea about Smith at all. Last year we had some visitors who were United Nations delegates. Conversation was very difficult for me since I'm no linguist, but I did manage to explain something about our curriculmm as well as show them several of the buildings. They were completely floored by the whole system.

ANNC Jean, I'd like to know more about the visitors, but first let's get a more detailed account of the structure of Gold Key itself. How many members are there? What are the qualifications? What kind of training do you have? What do the.....

JEAN .....Whoa, you're going too fast. I'd better answer those before we go on to more. This year there are twenty-eight members of Gold Key although there's no set limit--the number may vary from year to year. The general qualifications for a student are, above all, an enthusiastic interest in Smith, then an outgoing personality that lends itself to meeting and talking with all kinds of people. ~~If one is interested it's alot of fun~~. There are no Freshman members of Gold Key but all upperclassmen are eligible.

As for the training, there is no special training. (Before entering Gold Key we know pretty well where everything on campus is located). We simply greet the visitors and try to "size th em up" so to speak, then plan the itinerary we'll follow. The "sizing up" is ~~That's~~ so we can show them the parts of the campus in which they'd be most interested. ~~By~~

"~~sizing up~~" We use our so-called natural psychology so that we can always be a step ahead of our visitors ~~and know where to take our visitors~~. In other words, we can spot the girl who'd be interested only in Davis, the tennis courts and the proximity of Amherst, or the girl whose primary interest would be the library carrells and the program of outside lectures on works of art. But that's getting back to visitors and you wanted first to find out more about the structure of Gold Key itself.

ANNC. Yes--the meeting times, uniform and your schedule.

JEAN We work approximately two hours a week. One week for the two hour period we sit in the telephone office in College Hall to be on hand for visiters, the other week we're "on call" in our dormitories. That's so that there is always a ready substitute for the girl in College Hall if she has to leave to take care of new guests.

Gold Key has no regular meetings--just teas and meetings for special events like the alumnae tea after ~~the~~ convocation. Incidentally, we were all hoping at that time to be able to be personal escorts for Eleanor Roosevelt, but unfortunately not one of us had the opportunity.

You asked about clothing--we have no uniform. We just dress neatly in skirts and sweaters or suits and the like to "uphold our own good names and that of the college". This year however, there is a new addition to the organization. We now wear ~~KK~~ pins which are in the form of gold keys. They're very attractive. I wish I'd remembered to wear mine tonight so you could see it.

~~ANNC. xxxxxJeanx~~, Oh I think I've seen them—they are very nice.

ANNC. Jean, how are members of Gold Key selected?

JEAN Well, originally (that is in 1947) Miss Mensel, Mrs. Crawford, and Miss Rich appointed the members with the aid of Student Council. Now they are elected by the Gold Key electoral board.

The candidates are nominated by the existing members.

ANNC. But what if someone is interested but knows none of the members--does that mean that she'd never have a chance to join?

JEAN Oh no, not at all. If a girl is interested in joining ~~but knows~~ someone who is now in Gold Key. all she needs to do is tell ~~one of the members~~. (The names are posted in Seelye Basement). From there the matter will be looked into carefully by the members.

ANNC. Jean, how did you become interested in Gold Key?

JEAN That's a very good question because my answer will illustrate clearly the purpose of ~~Gold Key~~ the organization. You see, when I was preparing to enter college a few years ago, mother and I visited many schools. When we came here, some very nice girl volunteered to show us around. I was quite impressed by the college on the basis of her presentation. She really "sold" Smith to me--and that's why I joined Gold Key when I got here. I want to try to be as effective in selling Smith to others because it certainly is a wonderful commodity!

ANNC. And that's the best reason you could give. Now, let's hear more about the visitors. I realize that they're a diverse group who have to be handled by a versatile person, but there must be some stock similarities.

JEAN Since the majority of visitors are prospective students, I'll refer for the greater part to them. They usually come in groups of three--the father, mother and the charming young daughter. Daughter, by the way, always looks as if she's

just stepped out of a fashion magazine. She tries so hard to look "sophisticated" with her new look, her very high heels and her well-groomed coiffure--and then is shocked to see the unsophisticated manner in which college girls dress and act.

The questions asked do follow somewhat the same pattern. At least there's one thing pretty definite--the questions never stop. The mothers ask about food, bathroom facilities, heating in the buildings and the favorite "What time are lights out?". Father seems indifferent to the whole thing although he does remark about the number of bicycles and the danger of women with traffic. Daughter, on the sly, asks how many times we can go to Yale ~~xxx~~, can I smoke in my room and what rules are there?" The hardest question for me to answer is the one directed to me personally--"How many weekends do you go away?" If I make it sound like alot, the parents will think that we do too much prom-trotting and not enough work. If I try to impress the parents by pretending that I spend most of my weekends studying in the libe, I take the risk of upsetting daughter who doesn't want a limited social life.

ANNC. Now there's a problem that calls for real diplomacy. Say, when are you on duty?

JEAN The worst time imaginable--it's Thursday morning. When I show them rooms in a dorm, the rooms are inevitably in the process of being cleaned for inspection. They sure do look messy!~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~

ANNC, You must have to give a good explanation. Now how about telling us about some of your specific experiences on the "Smith tour."

JEAN Well as I mentioned before, I try to "size up" the visitor before showing her around. I can usually recognize the "intellectual", the "social butterfly" and the"athletic prep-schooler". Those are three definite types. I ask if they have any special interests then conduct thetour and answer questions accordingly.

Once an artist and her daughter came. For the first time since I'd been at college I really explored the art building. Not only that but I received also a very excellent lesson in art appreciation.

Another time I was questioned first of all about the clothing stores in Northampton. I took the mother and daughter to Albert's and we spent the whole two hours buying clothes. I've never seen anyone buy so many things at one time!

Perhaps the oddest thing that happened was with the guest who had a cat in her car. We parked the car near the quad, spent about a half hour in the dormitories and returned to find a litter of six kittens. They were the cutest little things.

ANNC. I hope for the owner's sake that kittens don't get carsick. Jean, do you ever take visitors to classes?

JEAN Yes, many of them ask to attend a class so I look up the schedule of courses to see if there is anything especially interesting going on at that time--it's a wonderful way for me to audit courses. The faculty members are always very helpful. Once when a girl and her father who were both interested in astronomy came here, I took them to the observatory where the members of the faculty there gave them a special demonstration in astronomy. It was nice for them to

take over for me--the things I know about stars aren't very astronomical.

ANNC. Hmmmmmmm but let's go on--with questions ~~xbxx~~ asked by visitors, that is.

JEAN They're always amused by our college jargon--libe, Hamp, written, big wheels ~~xxx~~ you've had it and so on. When we're in a class building at the end of a period, they always note the fact that things are "grim" or "ghastly for Smith girls... those are basic terms in the vocabulary.

They ask many times to see the president--but that's something I avoid very nicely. Poor Mr. Wright is busy enough without having to worry about greeting more people all the time.

Then there are the questions I never seem able to answer--like "What kind of ivy is growing on that building?" ~~xor~~"what style of arc hicture is that?".

ANNC. What seems to impress them the most about Smith?

JEAN They think the gym is beautiful, Sage impressive and of course are crazy about Davis. Most of the people I've shown around had just been to Vassar or Wellesley. At first their faces are a bit drawn but then they realize and comment that Smith does have its own peculiar charm. They absorb some of the warmth that we incorporate here.

~~xxxx~~.

ANNC. Are there ever any annoying guests?

JEAN Well sort of. I get a little annoyed by the girls who come with dates-- They're never interested in anything more than

looking up old friends. I always feel a little superfluous as I walk along in fromt of them like a chaperone or something.

ANNC. You mentioned driving to the quad, Jean. Do you always drive when you show someone around?

JEAN No, we usually walk as a matter of fact. The guests use their cars to go to the quad only. They are always amazed by the amount of walking we have to do and the fact that it doesn't affect us in any way. They get tired immediately ~~right away~~.

ANNC. I'll stick to my bicycle for sll the territory we have to cover. Tell me, what is the reaction of prospective Smith students after all is told?

JEAN They are usually quite enthusiastic although there are a few who just register a polite interest. On the whole, I can say that I will look for that face the following year. By the way, the member of Gold Key often has thanks expressed in many delightful ways--a dinner at Wiggin's, a box of candy, etc. It's alot of fun.

ANNC. Well, Jean I see our time is running out so I'm afraid we'll have to close our radio interview now~~--but will you tell me more about Gold Key after the program~~? You've given such a complete account of Gold Key that I want to consider joining myself. Thank you very much for coming over tonight--I enjoyed talking to you and am sure our radio listeners are now ~~very~~ in the clear about Gold Key and its functions.

And that ends the "Candid Campus" for this evening. You have been listening to ~~the~~ interviews on campus. Tonight you heard Jean Wood, member of the Gold Key organization here at Smith. Tune in again ~~to "Candid Campus"~~ next week at this same time when the Radio Class at Smith will bring you ~~the interview of~~ "Candid Campus". 'Smith Thru Personals'

-theme-

Nancy Kugel
Speech 31